

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 22-27 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 5, 22, 24 and 26. The Examiner has finally rejected claims 23, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zimmerman (US 5287789). Applicant herewith submits a Request for Continued Examination with this Amendment as the submission. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 23, 25 and 27. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 23 is directed to a sound signal analyzing device that extracts a pitch of a sound signal, designates at least one of an upper and lower pitch limit as a pitch limit characteristic and displays the pitch limit characteristic by displaying an image indicative of at least one of the upper and lower pitch limits. By manipulating the image, e.g., changing the position of a pointer 101/102 or the color of the keyboard region (see page 20, lines 14-18, and Fig. 10), a user can vary the pitch limit characteristic. Various parameters that are set in accordance with the pitch limit characteristic can be set with the varied pitch limit characteristic.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite “wherein a user can manipulate the image to vary the pitch limit characteristic such that the setting section sets the various parameters in accordance with the varied pitch limit characteristic.”

Zimmerman is directed to a musical instruction apparatus. Fig. 12 provides a pitch maze 465 having a width 470. A student singer must confine his or her voice (plotted as 466) within the pitch maze. Zimmerman does not disclose any manipulation of the image illustrated in Fig. 12. There is no discussion that elements of Fig. 12, such as the maze width 470, can be adjusted by manipulating the image illustrated in Fig. 12. Nor does Zimmerman disclose setting various parameters, such as a filter characteristic, for use in subsequent analysis of sound signals in accordance the varied pitch limit characteristic. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 23 is not anticipated by Zimmerman.

Claims 25 and 27 have been similarly amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also not anticipated by Zimmerman.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner feels that it would advance the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032009400. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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